

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 147
By Davis R

A RESOLUTION to designate a certain segment of U.S. Highway
25/70 in Cocke County as the "M.M. Bullard
Memorial Highway".

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to
name certain highways and bridges in honor of those exemplary public servants who during
their lifetimes contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of their respective
communities; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than the late Colonel M.M.
Bullard of Cocke County; and

WHEREAS, renowned throughout Tennessee as "Mr. Industry," Colonel Bullard may
well be recognized as the "Man of the Century" when the final chapter of Cocke County's 20th
century history is written; and

WHEREAS, few people have done as much to help Cocke County reap huge economic
benefits and few have touched as many lives at the essential level of jobs and quality of life as
Mr. Bullard did during the past fifty years; and

WHEREAS, like many people who gain eminence in the world of commerce, Colonel
Bullard achieved his remarkable success by selflessly serving the needs of his fellow citizens;
throughout his life, he exhibited the wisdom to determine where he could perform superior
services for the greatest benefit of all; and

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WHEREAS, by means of his astute judgment, keen foresight, and hard work, he overcame the chains of poverty to become one of the leading citizens of his community by first seeing what was needed and then by doing it; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bullard was indeed a great philanthropist and astute public servant, and his generosity was truly his trademark; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Bullard was a visionary who had his feet firmly planted among the people he loved; he was also an image builder, ambassador, untiring developer, gracious gentleman, adoring husband, tender father and grandfather and a responsible citizen who worked assiduously to make his dreams for himself and his community a reality; and

WHEREAS, he was the driving force behind creating the county fair and he overcame many obstinate hurdles to establish the Cocke County Burley Tobacco Market, which has brought millions of dollars each year to local growers; and

WHEREAS, because he recognized and appreciated the beauty, resources and potential of Cocke County, Mr. Bullard spearheaded numerous projects establishing utility systems and promoting industrial growth; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bullard was instrumental in the establishment of Jefferson-Cocke County Gas Utilities, which has been vital to the relocation of industry to the area, and the Cocke County Water Utility District, which is the only water system in the world that serves an entire county; and

WHEREAS, he was also the proprietor of Carson Valley Orchard and The Cosby Apple House, and was fondly called "The Apple Man" because of his generous gifts of the fine apples he had grown to everyone he met; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Bullard's love and devotion reached into all parts of East Tennessee; he generously donated his time to such worthy endeavors as raising funds for area rest homes, orphanages and the East Tennessee Children's Hospital; and

WHEREAS, if you travel along a certain segment of U.S. Highway 25/70 in Cocke County, you will see the tobacco warehouse, the Tennessee-Carolina Fairgrounds where he served astutely as President for twenty-five years and numerous other physical locations that stand as testament to Colonel Bullard's great beneficence, peerless public service and the essential and encompassing role he played in the creation of today's Cocke County; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that this route should be named in honor of one of the most accomplished entrepreneurs and finest citizens this state has ever produced; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That as a lasting tribute to a gracious philanthropist, astute businessman, exemplary public servant, outstanding citizen and devoted family man whose bountiful life overflowed with purpose and commitment, the segment of U.S. Highway 25/70 in Cocke County from its intersection with Interstate 40 to its intersection with U.S. Highway 25E is hereby designated as the "M.M. Bullard Memorial Highway".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating such segment of U.S. Highway 25/70 as the "M.M. Bullard Memorial Highway".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with the final three resolving clauses omitted from such copy.